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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 27 July 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit a copy of the note dated 23 July 2010 from the Government of Argentina, which was delivered to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Buenos Aires and which rejects the entire contents of the letter distributed as General Assembly document A/64/672 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 23.

(*Signed*) Diego **Limeres**
Minister
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Argentine Republic and wishes to refer to the letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and distributed as a United Nations document with the symbol A/64/672.

The Argentine Government rejects the entire contents of the above-mentioned letter.

The Argentine Government also reiterates in their entirety all of the communications from Argentina to the institutions of the European Union and its member States regarding the attempt to include the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in annex II, referred to in part four, "Association of the overseas countries and territories", of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Treaty of Lisbon). Furthermore, there is no basis in fact for the United Kingdom's reference to supposed support of the European Union for the British position on the sovereignty dispute between the two countries in relation to the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The principle of self-determination of peoples invoked by the United Kingdom as the only argument to sustain its position in the sovereignty dispute is not applicable to the question of the Malvinas Islands. This is reflected in General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25 and in the resolutions adopted each year by the Special Committee on decolonization. These resolutions have described the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation, involving a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom that needs to be resolved by means of negotiations between the two parties, taking into account the interests of the inhabitants of the islands.

Argentina therefore reiterates its rejection of the United Kingdom's attempt to apply the principle of self-determination of peoples to the question of the Malvinas Islands and to any alleged exercise of that right. Furthermore, the British attempt to place conditions on its obligation to resume negotiations with Argentina concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas lacks any basis in fact and is contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions.

Furthermore, the above-mentioned British letter indicates a lack of awareness of the geographical area of the sovereignty dispute and the bilateral understandings. Argentina reminds the United Kingdom that this area includes the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and *the* surrounding maritime areas.[1]

[1] Joint statement by the delegations of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Madrid, 19 October 1989.

The Argentine Republic reaffirms its legitimate rights to sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of its national territory and are under illegitimate British occupation.

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Buenos Aires, 23 July 2010